

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

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Iran-Iraq War

The Iranian cities of Khorramabad and Borujerd in Lorestan Province were hit by Iraqi "missiles" after midnight, Tehran radio announced on 24 February. According to IRNA, 80 civilians were killed and 350 were wounded in the attacks. Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i, in remarks cited by Tehran radio's Arabic service, said that on the basis of Iran's policy of "replying in kind," he has instructed the Iranian forces to "open fire at all Iraqi cities" with the exception of the four holy areas. The Iraqi city of Basra is now "completely under the fire" of Iranian artillery, according to an Iranian War Information Headquarters communique broadcast by Tehran radio. Earlier, Iran had refuted Iraqi claims that Iranian forces had shelled the city of Basra, IRNA reported citing an Iranian military announcement. This "baseless claim" shows Iraq's intention to renew its missile and air raids against Iran's civilian areas, the announcement had warned.

Meanwhile, Iranian forces have managed to advance "deep" into Iraqi territory, liberating more than 26 Iraqi villages and consolidating positions in the al-Qurnah region where the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers meet, Iranian military communiqués on the Khybar operations broadcast by Tehran radio reported. The number of Iraqi casualties since the start of these operations now exceeds 3,500, one of the communiqués added. A spokesman for the Iranian War Information Headquarters, in remarks carried by Tehran radio, denied Western "Propaganda" reports that the Iraqi town of Al-Qurnah is under Iraqi control and that Iranian forces never occupied it. Iranian troops are "completely stationed" in the Al-Qurnah region and still control the Al-'Amarah-Basra highway in important places. The "best proof" of these victories can be seen in the recent Iraqi missile attacks against Iranian cities launched from places far from the battlefield, the spokesman concluded. The Iraqi telecommunication system has also been disrupted, Tehran radio reported.

In response to Iranian reports of success in the Khybar operations, an Iraqi administrative official "ridiculed" Iranian claims of occupying the two southern cities of Al-Qurnah and Al-'Aziz, INA reported. The Iraqi Armed Forces General Command communique broadcast by Baghdad radio on 23 February reported the losses of Iranian forces in the battles east of Basra and in the Ash-Shib and Chilat sectors to be 4,773 dead, with a "large number" of wounded and prisoners. Iraqi planes and helicopter gunships successfully carried out a total of 229 missions, safely returning to their bases with the exception of one plane which crashed in enemy territory. "Savage" shelling of the Iraqi civilian areas of Basra, Mandali, Ash-Shihabi, and Sayyid Sadiq resulted in the death of 10 civilians and the wounding of 26 others, the communique added. One Iranian plane was shot down in a dogfight over Iranian territory on 24 February, Bagh-

dad Voice of the Masses radio announced citing an Iraqi military spokesman.

In another development, Iranian foreign affairs minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, in a statement carried by Tehran radio, warned that unless international pressure is put on Iraq and "assistance from global arrogance" to it ended, any "insane action" by Iraq or any "act of adventurism" by the United States or any other power will endanger the interests of the West in the region.

Lebanon

Cease-Fire Agreement — A cease-fire agreement will come into effect in Lebanon on 24 February, Saudi Prince Bandar ibn Sultan announced in a Damascus news conference reported by Beirut radio. Prince Bandar explained that the agreement is for a cease-fire only and did not cover such political issues as the continuation or abrogation of the 17 May agreement. Earlier, Prince Bandar met with Syrian foreign minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam in the presence of Saudi Mediator Rafiq al-Hariri to discuss the Lebanese situation, Beirut Voice of Lebanon radio reported. Prince Bandar described this meeting as "constructive, fruitful and successful," and added that the Syrian and Saudi sides had expressed "identical" views on all points raised at the discussion. Prince Bandar added that the United States should "bring pressure to bear" on Israel to make it respect this agreement, Voice of Lebanon added.

Military situation — Four Israeli planes bombed the civilian areas of Ru'aysat Sawfar, Bhamdun and 'Alayh on 23 February before Syrian air defense units in the area forced them to return to the occupied territory, a Syrian military spokesman said in a statement carried by Damascus radio.

Political contacts — Before returning to Damascus on 23 February, Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri held additional discussions with President Amin al-Jumayyil and foreign minister Elie Salim on the results of the latest Saudi-Syrian consultations and proposals for solving the Lebanese crisis, Beirut radio reported. According to Phalangist sources cited by Voice of the Mountain radio, the "shah of B'abda" rejected these proposals.

On 23 February, President al-Jumayyil also met with Lebanese front leaders Camille Sham'un and Pierre al-Jumayyil to discuss current political developments, Beirut radio stated. Former President Sham'un said that the discussion was "frank" and that although their views on what decision should be made concerning the 17 May agreement were not identical, there nevertheless was "no disagreement" and they were "cooperating" to solve the problem, the radio added.

In another development, Lebanese forces Commander Fadi Afram called for the partitioning of Lebanon into "sectarian cantons" as it is no longer possible to rebuild it according to its previous structure, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported.

Afram also called on the Lebanese government to consolidate its relations with Israel in order to neutralize Syrian pressure.

PLO Affairs

The decision to send a high-ranking delegation led by PLO Executive Committee chairman Yasir 'Arafat to Amman within the "next few days" for talks with Jordan's King Husayn was discussed at a 22 February Fatah Central Committee meeting in Tunis, KUNA reported citing a "responsible Palestinian source." The meeting also adopted a decision to convene the movement's general congress no later than 1 May, according to a Wafa report cited by KUNA. Two delegations, one from the PLO and one from Fatah, will go to Moscow for talks with Soviet officials within the next few weeks, Wafa added.

Libya

The "unilateral" decision by the Jordanian Government to sever relations with Libya violates the Arab League Charter and Arab

summit resolutions and subsequently raises the question as to the usefulness and meaning of the Arab League itself, JANA reported citing a statement by the Libyan popular Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison.

Mediation mission — The wife of Libyan leader Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi arrived in New Delhi on an "unexpected" mission to halt the escalation of the Iran-Iraq war, KUNA reported. She is bringing a message from Colonel al-Qadhafi to Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Citing "reliable sources," KUNA reports that while the contents of the message are not known, the Libyan leader is concerned about the possibility of a confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union if there is a further escalation in the war, and wants Mrs Gandhi as chairman of the Nonaligned Movement to take a "bold initiative" to stop the fighting.

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Al-Qadhdhafi's Wife Arrives on Mediation Mission
LD241000 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0930 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] New Delhi, 24 Feb (KUNA) — The wife of Libyan leader Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi arrived here this morning on an unexpected mission in an attempt to halt the escalation of the Iraqi-Iranian war. A spokesman for the Indian Foreign Ministry said the Libyan leader's wife is bringing a message from Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi to Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

The contents of the message are not known but it has been learned from reliable sources that the Libyan leader is concerned about the possibility of confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union if the Iraqi-Iranian war should escalate much more than at present, and he wants Mrs Gandhi as Chairman of the nonaligned movement to take a bold initiative to stop the fighting.

Al-Qadhdhafi's wife was met at the airport by the daughter of the Indian president (Mrs Ghurmit Kaur). The visit to India is expected to last several days. News of her arrival remained secret until this moment.

Gandhi Meets Czechoslovak Prime Minister 21 Feb
BK211623 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] India and Czechoslovakia today had an extensive exchange of views on the international situation, especially the developments in Europe and prospects of increasing their bilateral cooperation. The prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, and the Czechoslovak prime minister, Dr Lubomir Strougal, had an 80-minute meeting in New Delhi today. They reviewed the progress in the disarmament negotiations and briefed each other about the developments in their respective region. They expressed satisfaction at the state of relations between the two countries but felt that there is vast scope for developing them further.

Mrs Gandhi also told the visiting prime minister about the role of the Nonaligned Movement in defusing tension in different trouble spots. Mr Strougal invited Mrs Gandhi to pay a visit to his country.

Mr Strougal also called on the president, Giani Zail Singh. He was with the president for about half an hour.

The delegations of the two countries had a separate session. The Indian side was led by the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, and included the commerce minister, Mr V.P. Singh; the principal secretary to the prime minister, Mr Alexander; the foreign secretary, Mr Rasgotra; and other senior officials. The deputy prime minister of Czechoslovakia, Mr L. Gerle, led his country's delegation, which included the foreign trade minister, Mr Urban, and the deputy minister for foreign affairs, Mr Rehorek.

In the economic field, the two sides noted that the target of doubling trade by 1985 has already been achieved. The plan for

1984 envisages a growth rate of 6.5 percent in bilateral trade. The trade turnover is expected to reach 411 crore rupees. They agreed on the need to diversify trade and also spoke of the possibilities of joint production.

Earlier, a warm welcome was given to the Czechoslovak prime minister when he arrived in New Delhi this morning on a 3-day official visit. The prime minister and the external affairs minister were among others who received him.

Gandhi, Strougal Dinner Speeches

BK220455 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] India and Czechoslovakia have stressed the need to start immediate negotiations for the reduction of nuclear and other weapons aiming at their eventual elimination. Speaking at a dinner hosted in honor of the visiting Czechoslovakian prime minister, Mr Strougal, in New Delhi last night, the prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, said an earnest beginning in this direction will create an atmosphere for the solution of many conflicts. She said India has consistently worked to improve its relations with neighboring countries and to create a climate of confidence in the region. We are following a policy of nonalignment and peaceful coexistence and seek active friendship and cooperation with all countries irrespective of divergence in forms of government. The prime minister said humanity today is threatened by the (?ghost) of nuclear stockpile and preparations for war. She said the Palestine situation is grave; Lebanon is strife-torn. On South Africa, Mrs Gandhi said apartheid still continues there causing untold miseries to the majority of the people.

Replying, Mr Strougal pleaded for elimination of wasteful expenditure on stockpiling of arms, which, he said, has so far prevented the establishment of an equitable economic order among nations. He shared the views of Mrs Gandhi that tensions and the threat of nuclear armaments have increased. He said Czechoslovakia desires peace and coexistence among all the nations. He also stressed the need for expanding Indo-Czechoslovak cooperation in various fields.

Communique Issued

BK231006 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] India and Czechoslovakia have called for an immediate halt to the nuclear arms race to create a climate of understanding and confidence to defuse the present international situation. In a joint communique issued at the end of the 3-day state visit of the Czechoslovak prime minister, Mr Lubomir Strougal, both sides expressed concern at the increasing tension in the world. Mr Strougal and Mrs Gandhi shared the view that the resources released through disarmament should be used for economic development.

Reportage on Situation in Punjab, Haryana**Changes in Punjab Administration**

*BK231241 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT
23 Feb 84*

[Text] The center has ordered major changes in the Punjab administration. Mr Harbans Singh and Mr P.C. Gawai, advisers to the governor, and the director general of police, Mr C.K. Soni, have been replaced. Mr Harbans Singh held the portfolio of home. His place has been taken by Mr Surendra Nath, director general of the Central Industrial Security Force. Mr P.S. Bhinder, inspector general of police for law and order, will assume powers of the director general of police. The governor, Mr B.D. Pandey, is visiting the affected areas of Amritsar and Gurdaspur Districts today.

23 February Incidents

*BK240340 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT
24 Feb 84*

[Text] In Punjab, five persons were killed and nine injured in five incidents last night in the Districts of Ferozepur, Amritsar, and Gurdaspur. An official spokesman in Chandigarh said this morning that three of them were killed and six injured when some unidentified persons opened fire in a market in Guru Harsahai in Ferozepur District. In similar incidents of firing, one person was killed at Batiala, and one killed and one injured in (Khirtian) in Amritsar district. One person was seriously injured in a bomb blast in village (Tista) in Amritsar District.

Meanwhile, plying of buses on the rural routes at night by the Punjab Roadways and (?Pepsu) Road Transport Corporation has been suspended as a precautionary measure. The timings of such buses have been so rescheduled that these buses will reach their destinations before 1900. However, night bus service on long-distance routes in the state will continue.

At Amritsar, the Akali Dal leaders and the district presidents met last night. According to agency reports, they reviewed the situation in Punjab and Haryana, and also discussed the contents of the letter received from the Janata Party president, Mr Chandra Shekhar.

The Jullundur District Bar Association has appealed to lawyers in both Punjab and Haryana to hold peace marches and meetings in their respective place to promote peace and communal harmony. The association, which met in Jullundur yesterday, called for resumption of tripartite talks to solve the problems of Punjab and Haryana. In Ludhiana, all political parties and educationists have set up a steering committee to fight out [as heard] communalism and restore peace and communal harmony.

In New Delhi, the Punjab Pradesh [state] Congress-I chief, Mr R.L. Bhatia, met the prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, and apprised her of the situation in Punjab. The All-India Congress-I Committee general secretary, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has said that the center should deal with the Punjab situation firmly. He made these remarks in an interview to a foreign television program.

AFP Report

OW231343 Hong Kong AFP in English 1308 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 23 (AFP) — Opposition legislators walked out of parliament today after vainly demanding an emergency debate on the situation in northern India, where the death toll from 10 days of communal violence rose to 60.

The 55 members of two major Hindu nationalist parties, the Lok Dal and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), boycotted the opening speech by President Zail Singh who warned that "internal and external forces" were trying to destabilize India.

Meanwhile, a potential showdown between the government and Sikhs loomed after Prime Minister Indira Gandhi charged yesterday that Sikh militants were using their temples to harbor killers and weapons.

Onkar Singh Thapar, Delhi leader of the moderate Sikh party, the Akali Dal, predicted "unprecedented bloodshed" if the police were to enter the temples here where they are barred more by tradition than law.

Officials in Chandigarh, joint capital of Punjab and Haryana state, said that the bodies of two adults and a child were discovered today at a Punjabi village as the latest Hindu victims of attackers believed to be Sikh militants.

Chandigarh police said that a total of 12 people were killed since yesterday in Punjab, where Sikhs are waging a campaign for greater autonomy and other political and religious concessions. Overall, the toll from 10 days of clashes in the two states reached 60, they said.

Press reports said the Indian Army was on a state of maximum alert in the northwest on guard against a possible move by India's rival neighbor Pakistan during the communal troubles. A Defense Ministry spokesman refused comment.

Police security was also boosted in Hindu-dominated Haryana and Punjab, where the Sikhs are in the majority. Orders to shoot trouble makers on sight were extended until the end of the month.

In Punjab, under presidential rule since last October, the police director and an adviser to the governor were removed in a shakeup apparently aimed at improving the state's response to the continuing bloodshed.

Against this backdrop, the parliament opened its budget session under extraordinarily tight security, with plainclothes security guards and mounted police posted around the sprawling complex and metal detectors newly installed at entrances.

The opposition planned to seek a motion of no-confidence in the government which had virtually no chance of passage. The Lok Dal and the BJP also demanded an emergency debate on the violence but walked out when it was refused, one BJP legislator tearing up a copy of the president's speech in protest as he left.

Mr. Singh, in an apparent conciliatory gesture, asked for a minute of silence for victims of the Sikh-Hindu strife, which some observers saw as Mrs. Gandhi's stiffest test in a decade as government chief.

The president made a plea for unity against what he called "activities of internal and external forces which are at work to undermine the country's political and social stability."

Newspapers here reported that New Delhi feared Pakistan might exploit the troubles in India's northwest to intervene in the Punjab — or in Kashmir where the two countries have fought three bloody wars.

The *HINDUSTAN TIMES*, generally considered close to the government, said that army leave had been canceled and units stocked with full munitions and materiel "to be prepared on a four-day notice to face any external threat."

Witnesses reported troop movements in both Punjab and Haryana. The *TIMES* said the armed forces were on a state of maximum alert for the first time since militant Sikhs began their pro-autonomy drive in the Punjab 18 months ago.

Officials in Chandigarh said that public gathering and processions had been banned, except for marriages and funerals, and colleges closed.

Correspondents said that several thousand civilians were mobilized to guard railways and other strategic installations in the area, where daily life appeared to return to normal in major towns despite the violence.

Observers said the confrontation between the Sikhs and the government could reach a flashpoint here on Monday, when Sikhs plan to burn part of the Indian Constitution which classifies them together with the Hindus.

Prohibitory Orders Imposed in Delhi From 24 Feb
BK231553 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
23 Feb 84

[Text] Prohibitory orders under Section 144 [banning assembly of five or more people] have been imposed throughout the union territory of Delhi from tomorrow for 6 days. This decision was taken today at a high-level meeting convened by the lieutenant governor, Jagmohan.

SRI LANKA

Parliament Votes To Extend State of Emergency

*BK231613 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1545 GMT
23 Feb 84*

[Excerpt] A motion to extend the state of emergency was approved by the Parliament a short while ago. It was passed by a two-thirds majority — 129 voted for the motion and (?8) against. The Sri Lanka Freedom Party, the Sri Lanka Communist Party, and the Mahajana Eksath Peramuna were against the motion.

All-Party Conference Adjourns Until 13 March

*BK231426 Colombo International Service in English
1045 GMT 23 Feb 84*

[Text] The all-party conference adjourned proceedings yesterday to provide the delegates time to study the specific proposals that emerged during the past 2 days. It will also give them an opportunity to informally discuss the issues that have now come into the open.

Minister Lalith Athulathmudali told newsmen that on 13 March when the conference will resume, it may enter into a new phase. He commented that general statements had been made, specific proposals presented, and that the conference may take up the interaction of these proposals now. After the 13th of next month, the conference will reconvene on the 15, 20, 21, 22, and 23 of March.

Jayewardene Speaks to Parliament on Ethnic Issue

*BK231428 Colombo International Service in English
1045 GMT 23 Feb 84*

[Text] President Jayewardene has said that the time has come for an equitable solution to be found quickly to the ethnic problem

through the united efforts of all political parties and organizations. Addressing the new parliamentary session, the president said we cannot permit the racial problem to grow in bitterness or violence.

Mr Jayewardene, who noted that many of the promises in the 1977 election manifesto had been implemented, said that the government would continue to concentrate on reconstruction, development, and innovation. He said Sri Lanka was now an outstanding example of the resilience shown by some developing nations in hostile international economic environment.

The president said that the unfortunate July incidents were an experience which all right-thinking people hope will never be repeated. Speaking at length on racial antagonism, Jayewardene traced the differences that have risen between the Sinhala and Tamil people over the years. Mr Jayewardene noted that the July incidents took place in the full glare of world publicity. He said that India took a special interest, especially Tamil Nadu where local politics played a significant role. He stressed that Sri Lanka cannot shut its eyes and ears to the international consequences arising from what happened in July. The all-party conference now sitting affords an opportunity to all parties represented there to meet together and discuss peacefully ways and means of easing tension and solving problems.

Mr Jayewardene said that the terrorist campaign has made agreement difficult. He added that the Tamil representatives of the north have to satisfy the extreme elements that seek separatism through the bullet. The Tamil leaders have to convince these elements that the solution they accept comes as close to separation as possible within a united Sri Lanka. The leaders of the Sinhala and Muslim people, on the other hand, had to explain how the proposals they put forward are as far away as possible from secession. The president said that there is an almost unbridgeable gap between these two positions. He wished the leaders of all parties courage, wisdom, and patience to arrive at a correct decision.

Khamene'i: We Would Destroy U.S. Interests in Gulf
LD241156 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT
 24 Feb 84

[Excerpt] The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council [President Khamene'i] continued his second sermon, emphasizing: Today the Iraqi regime has no other way but to surrender to the Islamic Republic of Iran. We did not and do not have any desire to attack, but we shall crush the attacker. Foreign radios should not attempt to make the people of the region frightened of us.

Sooner or later, we will crush anyone who attacks us, just as we have crushed the Zionist enemy who is breathing his last breath.

Tehran's Friday imam added: In order to make up for its disgrace in Lebanon the United States is hatching a plot in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz. Right from the beginning, we have said, and will continue to say, that as long as our ships can pass through the Strait of Hormuz we will not do anything to anybody, but should U.S. fleets and their supporters wish to do anything in the Strait of Hormuz, their fate would decisively be worse than their fate in Lebanon. Should the United States wish to undertake acts of adventurism in the Persian Gulf to make up for its disgrace in Lebanon or to save the Iraqi regime from its downfall, we would destroy all U.S. interests in the Persian Gulf.

It would be better for politicians to be more realistic. The world has never seen such a nation. Our nation is resisting and our great leader is a mountain of power, resolution, and will power. We will crush the aggressor, and as long as the present Iraqi regime is in power, we shall not have any hope for peace, not only in our country, but in the region.

Iraqi Claims of Basra Shelling Denied
GF231710 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Tehran Feb. 23 IRNA — The Joint Staff Command of the army today refuted Iraqi claims of Iranian shelling of Basra and once again reiterated that it would only step up retaliatory attacks upon Iraqi towns and cities as declared previously. An announcement by the army command today also said that by bringing up this baseless claim Iraq intended to renew its missile and air raids against Iran's civilian areas.

It said the Iraqi regime had published the false news of the Iranian shelling of Basra after interrupting its regular radio broadcasts in which it had claimed that a number of the people in the city had been killed or wounded in the alleged Iranian attack. It said the scheme aimed at deviating the public opinion in Iraq and overshadowing the victories of the Islamic combatants in the warfronts as well as the welcome given to them by the border inhabitants of Iraq.

Iraqi Missiles Hit Khorramabad, Borujerd
LD241013 Tehran IRNA in English 0936 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 24 — Once again civilian Iranians including children as well as old men and women fell victim to Iraqi

(?atrocities). In the midnight Thursday, residential areas in Khorramabad and Borujerd in Lorestan Province were hit by Iraqi missiles resulting in the martyrdom of scores of innocent civilians. Latest reports indicate that in this latest Iraqi act of brutality at least 59 people were martyred and 350 others wounded.

At 01:36 hours this morning Iraqi missiles hit civilian quarters in Khorramabad and at 01:06 simultaneously with the first attack, Borujerd also was struck by several enemy missiles. These attacks of the desperate Iraqi forces took place following their humiliating defeats in the battle-fronts and at a time when the people of the two cities were asleep.

Immediately after the inhuman Iraqi attacks, the devoted people of the city poured into the streets and while chanting "War, war, until victory" slogans, aided relief workers to pull out bodies of the victims from under the rubble.

In the course of the 41-month-old Iraqi imposed war, civilian quarters in Iran have repeatedly been subjected to various Iraqi attacks. About 4,700 people have lost their lives and 23,100 others have been wounded in these Iraqi attacks.

Iraq has also used chemical bombs of different [word indistinct] against Iran, in violation of international regulations outlawing deployment of chemical weapons.

The grounds for renewed Iraqi attacks on Iranian towns came two days ago when the Iraqi rulers learned about Iran's preparation for a major offensive in the southern sector of the battle-fronts. Iraq desperately announced that it would retaliate Iranian victories in the warfronts by destroying Iranian towns and cities.

Also on Thursday, Iraq resorted to another scheme in order to justify its intended attacks on Iranian civilians. On this day Iraq accused Iran of shelling Basra, something which was categorically denied by the Joint Staff command of Iran. In an announcement issued Thursday, the Iranian Joint Staff reiterated that Iran would only retaliate future Iraqi attacks on Iranian towns and cities.

Casualties Updated

LD241052 Tehran IRNA in English 1040 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Khorramabad, Feb. 24 IRNA — According to latest figures published at 12:00 hours (local time) today, the number of casualties in Khorramabad and Borujerd have risen to 80 martyrs and 350 wounded.

The two cities were missile attacked by the Iraqi forces at the midnight last night. [sentence as received]

In Khorramabad 50 people were martyred and 225 others wounded. In Borujerd 30 were martyred and 225 wounded.

Meanwhile, following the enemy attack upon Khorramabad last night, enemy warplanes violated the air space of the city at 09:52 and 09:59 this morning but were repelled by the fire of the Iranian anti-aircraft units.

Khamene'i Instructs Forces To Fire on Iraqi Cities*GF240854 Tehran International Service in Arabic
0838 GMT 24 Feb 84*

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners: Please listen to the following. Brother 'Ali Khamene'i, president and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, said a short while ago during the Friday sermons in Tehran — while referring to the martyrdom or wounding of hundreds of Muslim citizens in Khorramabad and Borujerd as a result of the Saddamist regime's missile attacks on the two cities last night — that on the basis of the policy of replying in kind, he has instructed the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran to open fire at all Iraqi cities with the exception of the four holy cities of Karbala', An-Najaf, Al-Kazimiyah, and Samara. Brother Khamene'i renewed his call to the Muslim Iraqi people to take refuge in Islamic Iran or in the four holy cities.

'Retaliatory Fire' on Basra Announced*GF240630 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0556 GMT
24 Feb 84*

[Unnumbered communique of War Information Headquarters]

[Excerpts] Muslim people of Iran and Iraq, awakened consciences, oppressed who have risen: The Ba'thist regime of Iraq has, as always, avenged its defeat on the war fronts by blind and paranoid acts. In the wake of the proud victories of the Islamic combatants, it has once again created new atrocities. It has attacked the residential and civilian areas of the cities of Khorramabad and Borujerd with missiles. Tens of our compatriots have been martyred, hundreds have been injured, and many homes have been destroyed.

Heroic people of Iran and Iraq, the Islamic Republic of Iran, as it announced earlier, will not remain silent in the event of an attack on Iranian cities by the enemy and will resort to equal confrontation and will attack the cities of Iraq in retaliatory fire.

Now the city of Basra is completely under the fire of the artillery of the Islamic combatants. The Islamic Republic of Iran requests all those who are still in Basra to leave the city as soon as possible. To annihilate the source of trouble and sedition, that is, the regime of Saddam, the infidel and destroyer of Islam, with all of our strength we will reply to last night's attack by Baghdad and give tit for tat.

People of Basra, leave the city as soon as possible. If you are thwarted by Saddam's mercenaries, resist them as the regime of the infidel Saddam is on its way to total destruction.

Iraqi Telecommunications 'Greatly Disrupted'*LD241012 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0951 GMT
24 Feb 84*

[Text] Dear listeners: Please pay attention. According to a report from the Central News Unit in Ahvaz, following attacks by the fighters of Islam, the Iraqi telecommunication system has

been greatly disrupted. According to this report, the (Sawt al-Jamahir) radio station in Basra which broadcasts on 693 khz has been silent since 2300 last night and so far it has not been able to resume its broadcasts today.

It has also been reported that stopping the broadcasts on (Sawt al-Jamahir) radio, which has special regional importance to the Ba'thist-Zionist regime of Iraq, is a consequence of attacks by the forces of Islam in the Khybar operations which have silenced the voice of the infidel Saddam who derives his inspiration from the Zionists.

These telecommunication disruptions have also affected television broadcasts in Basra and Al-'Amarah and the video from Basra television station, especially channel 12, has been cut.

Headquarters Issues Communiques on Khybar Operations**Communique No 5***LD231532 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1504 GMT
23 Feb 84*

[Communique No 5 of Katim ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, joint operations center of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran and Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. We have verily granted you a decisive victory. [Koranic verse]

Following the great and proud victories of the self-sacrificing and heroic members of the ever-victorious forces of Islam in the victorious Khybar operations which have resulted in the liberation of extensive areas of enemy territory, the high-flying and heroic pilots of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran with a number of fighter planes this afternoon heavily bombed the moving columns of the IV Army Corps of the Zionist regime of Iraq, which were planning to engage in counterattacks against our forces in Qal'ah Salih, north of Uzayr defile, and inflicted more losses and damages on the defeated enemy forces.

All the high-flying eagles of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran returned safely to base after these successful missions. If you assist God, He will assist you and will make your steps firm. [Koranic verse]

[Signed] Khatim ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, joint operations center of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

Communique No 6*LD231708 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1611 GMT
23 Feb 84*

[Communique No 6 of Khatim ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, joint operations center of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran and Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Islamic nation, Muslim and revolutionary Iranian nation: The

zealous sons of the hezbollahi nation in the continuation of the victorious Khybar operations, in addition to the regions announced in previous communiques, so far have managed to liberate the Al-Qurnah bridge, over which the Basra-Baghdad road passes, and to take up positions in the Al-Qurnah region where the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers join, and have consolidated their positions.

The combatants of Islam have also bypassed the township of (Al-Hakirah) in Iraq and in the course of a heavy battle with the enemy have bravely liberated the township of As-Saqrah in Iraq and the Al-Uzayr bridge.

Our powerful and self-sacrificing forces have so far, in additions to the villages whose names have not been announced yet, managed to bypass the villages of (Nasir al-Amin), (Halidiyah) and eastern Zakayah, (Al-Himaran), (Ilijyah), and (Mahibash) in Al-Amarah Province and the villages of (Tall al-'Atiq), Bani Malik, (Ishan al-Bashshah), (Tall-e Umm al-Dud), and (Tall al-Bijah) in Basra Province. Therefore, so far, more than 26 Iraqi villages have been liberated from the yoke of the criminal regime ruling Iraq.

The men of the liberating army of Islam have been warmly welcomed by the Muslim and oppressed inhabitants of Iraq in the liberated areas and the Iraqi Muslims have appreciated the steps of the combatants of Islam and the Muslim inhabitants of the township of As-Sakhras. By chanting slogans for the Islamic Republic of Iran, they displayed their joy and jubilation over the arrival of the forces of Islam in Iraqi territory.

In the course of the victorious Khybar operations so far, heavy blows have been dealt to the enemy forces and more than 2,500 of the enemy forces have been killed or wounded and another number have been taken prisoner.

[Signed] Khatim ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, joint operations center of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique No 7

GF230556 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0458 GMT
24 Feb 84

[Communique No 7 issued by Khatim ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, joint operations center of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran and Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Verily, we have granted thee a clear victory. [Koranic verse]

Salutations to you O heralds of victory and success! And to the individual warriors of the fronts of sacrifice who are making the flowers of victory and pride blossom and are the harbingers of a new dawn. Infinite blessings to you who have sought help from God Almighty and have risen for nearness to the prophet of God — peace be upon him and his scion — in defense of Islam and the Islamic country and are creating epics with each passing minute.

O Islamic nation, O martyr-nurturing and heroic nation of Iran: The valiant combatants on the battlefronts, with faith in their hearts and the fervor of Hoseyn in their heads, have taken the banner of monotheism in their hands and continue the Khybar operation which has brought dazzling victories in its wake. They have been able to advance deep into Iraqi territory and to inflict heavy blows on the Zionist regime ruling Baghdad and have liberated (Jaza'er-e Majmun) in Hawr al-Huwayzah. (Jaza'er-e Majmun), an area of 200 square km, contains 50 oil wells which have an extensive pipeline network. The Islamic combatants, by occupying (Jaza'er-e Majmun), which is of extraordinary importance, have been successful in seizing tens of antitank weapons and some (?vehicles) of the enemy, including numerous loaders, bulldozers, personnel carriers, and automatic carriers in perfect condition. Besides, more than 1,000 of the Zionist forces of Iraq have been killed or wounded by Islamic combatants. In this way, the number of enemy killed and injured since the beginning of the Khybar operation now exceeds 3,500.

The news of the victory of the Islamic combatants with the superiority of the forces of monotheism and the defeat of the infidel agents continues and our forces are carrying out the battle with the mercenaries of world oppression with the support of divine blessings and the prayers of the imam of the nation and the Islamic nation.

[Signed] Khatim ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, joint operations center of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

Communique No 8

LD241046 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1005 GMT
24 Feb 84

[Communique No 8 of Khatim ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, joint operations center of Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. We have verily granted you a decisive victory. [Koranic verse]

Today Islam's wondrous power is manifested in the powerful arms of our heroic fighters. The fighters of Islam are crushing enemy forces in several fronts in the south and west of the country, inflicting consecutive crushing blows to the defeated enemy's body.

Simultaneous with the victories and extensive operations in the south, the blasphemy-fighting combatants of Islam continue Val-Fajr VI operations in the central and western fronts of the country, demonstrating their matchless fighting capabilities, which are due to God's limitless bounty and assistance.

Continuing the Val-Fajr VI operations in the Chilat axis situated in the Dehloran region, the combatants of Islam last night attacked enemy forces, smashed their positions, and completely destroyed two battalions of the Zionist Iraqi regime's forces, killing hundreds and wounding many more. Tens of enemy tanks,

personnel carriers, and vehicles were set on fire; the Chilat post and an Iraqi factory in that region were destroyed in these operations.

The fighting continues in the western and southern fronts with complete superiority on the part of the forces of Islam.

If you assist God, He will assist you and will make firm your steps. [Koranic verse]

[Signed] Khatim ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, joint operations center of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

Communique No 9

LD241311 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1210 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Communique No 9 issued by Khatim ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, joint operations center of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran and Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. We have verily granted you a decisive victory [Koranic verse]. The atmosphere of the Islamic homeland is filled with the life-giving scent of God's limitless grace and blessings. The epic deeds of the fighters of Islam, these armed mystics and pious warriors, are so wonderful that no words can describe the faith, devotion, love, and steadfastness of these marchers on the path of Husayn's Karbala'.

Islamic nation, Moslem Iranian nation: Continuing their Khybar operations in a number of axes in Al-'Amarah and Basra Provinces and while continuing the Val-Fajr VI operations in the western and central fronts, our brave and heroic fighters composed of the valiant members of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the self-sacrificing guards and members of the basij [mobilization] units of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps last night, in a fast and extensive attack against the Zionist enemy, succeeded in crossing many obstacles and breaking many enemy defensive lines in Talayeh Qadim (Old Talayeh) region and to occupy Talayeh bridge which serves one of the most important supply routes in this region. By killing and wounding more than 1,500 enemy troops in that region they brought the number of enemy dead to more than 5,000. [sentence as heard] They also destroyed dozens of their tanks and personnel carriers and many of their vehicles.

In addition to the 26 villages already announced, they also liberated (Al-Mindaqah), (As-Salaf), (As-Sukuk), Sayyid Hashim, and Rashid villages in the province [passage indistinct].

Iraqi Plane Downed on Val-Fajr VI Axis

GF231916 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] The air defense systems of the forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran at 1015 today downed one of the hostile planes of the ruling regime in Iraq which was trying to attack the

positions of the heroes of Islam on the axis of the Val-Fajr VI operations and the axis of the Khybar operations.

Combatants Continue 'Successful Advance'

GF240736 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0707 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Unnumbered communique issued by joint operations center of Khatim ol-Anbiya' Headquarters and Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Text] According to reports from the Khatim ol-Anbiya' Headquarters and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, since the beginning of the victorious Khybar operation until now, the Islamic combatants continue their successful advance and have succeeded in crossing the villages of (Al-Mandaha), (Salah), and (As-Sakuk) in Al-'Amarah Province and the villages of (As-Saniya) and (An-Nahir) in Basra Province, besides liberating 26 villages which had already been announced in the Khatim ol-Anbiya' Headquarters' communiques, and are now moving toward their other predetermined targets.

It should be recalled that besides the 31 villages already mentioned [as heard], the townships of (As-Sakhray), (Al-Hatirah), and (Pol-e al-Uzair) and the important Al-Qurhah Bridge, which is part of the Baghdad-Basra highway, have been completely taken over and are controlled by the Islamic forces.

With the liberation of the strategic Al-Qurnah Bridge, the city of Al-Qurnah is within the firing range of the Islamic combatants.

Two Iraqi Army Divisions 'Destroyed'

LD241059 Tehran IRNA in English 1030 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Khatim ol-Anbiya' HQ. Feb. 24 IRNA — Two enemy divisions from the Third and Fourth Corps (?of) Iraq and a part of the newly-established 19th Division were destroyed by the Iranian combatants in the continuation of the Khybar offensive.

The Iranian forces also transferred a large group of Iraqi soldiers wandering in the Hawr al-Huwayzah marshes, behind the fronts.

Caravan on Al-'Amarah-Baghdad Highway Attacked

LD241101 Tehran IRNA in English 1043 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Khatim ol-Anbiya' HQ. Feb. 24 IRNA — The air force fighters of the Islamic Republic of Iran today at 8:30 hours this morning [words indistinct] Corps on the Al-'Amarah-Baghdad highway.

The said enemy caravan was moving on the road with the intention to carry out a counter-offensive against the Iranian combatants. In this bombardment enemy's armoured equipment and tanks were destroyed and heavy casualties were inflicted upon the Iraqis.

After carrying out the successful mission the Iranian jet fighters returned to their bases safely.

Reports also said that the Iranian forces stationed [words indistinct] are fully stationed there.

Aircraft Bomb Iraqi Assembly Points 23 Feb

*LD241136 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT
24 Feb 84*

[Text] Continuing the devotion demonstrated by the army of monotheism, two quick-flying eagles of the Air Force of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran bombed several assembly points of the defeated enemy in Iraqi territory yesterday evening and returned safely to base.

During these operations, the quick-flyers of the Air Force of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran dealt heavy blows at enemy personnel and equipment.

'Successful' Hawr al-Huwayzah Crossing

*GF241936 Tehran International Service in Arabic
0945 GMT 24 Feb 84*

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Our correspondent at the Khatim oi-Anbiya' Headquarters reports that special military tactics were used in the operations plan to cross Hawr al-Huwayzah. It was one of the most successful plans completed throughout the period of the imposed war. The operations plan drawn up to cross the Hawr al-Huwayzah area, which was part of the operational zones of the victorious Khybar operations, have taken the Saddamist enemy by surprise and deprived him of the ability to take countermeasures.

In this regard, a military expert has said: The Ba'thist enemy never imagined that the heroes of Islam would succeed in crossing the Hawr al-Huwayzah area.

Our correspondent added: One half of the Hawr al-Huwayzah — which was formed as a result of the confluence of several rivers including the Misan and (Sablah) Rivers and several other tributaries — lies in Iranian territory, while the other part lies in Iraqi territory. The maximum depth of the water in the Hawr is 15 meters. There are several habitable islands in it. Iraqi villagers live on some of these islands. The heroes of Islam are now in control of all these islands.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,645

*LD231746 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT
23 Feb 84*

[Communique No 1,645 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] The heroic and brave pilots of the Air Force of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran at 1527 today, during a

mission outside our borders, attacked the main supply and communication Al-'Amarah-Basra road and destroyed enemy military and armored columns.

During the past 24 hours, the powerful combatants of Islam, by carrying out the special Khybar operations in the southern region, attacked enemy positions and defended their positions in the northwestern and western operational zones.

In the Piranshah, Sar Dasht, and Hajj 'Umran regions, exchanges of fire were continuing. The forces of Islam, by opening fire on the enemy's supply and defense positions, inflicted effective losses and casualties on the Saddamist forces.

In the Marivan and Panjwin operational sectors, the combatants of Islam, by carrying out continual observations and dispatching patrol groups, brought the enemy movements under their control and preserved their domination and superiority. They opened fire on Iraqi positions and servicemen at suitable times, inflicting losses and casualties on the Saddamist forces.

On the Bakhtaran and Ilam border fronts, enemy vehicle columns on the supply axes opposite the (Dasht-e Zahab) region of Qasr-e Shirin and on the supply axes opposite the Naft-e Shahr and Sumar regions came under fire and enemy movements were stopped.

In the course of a series of exchanges of fire in the Abadan and Khorramshahr operational zones, the combatants of Islam, returning fire on the enemy positions and fortifications west of the Arvand Rud, set fire to and destroyed six slit trenches and foxholes of the aggressors.

Officials Cited on War Strategy Against Iraq

*PM241117 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 21 Feb 84
p 10*

[Magdi Allam report on February visit to Iran: "Khomeyni's Total War"]

[Text] Half-a-million Iraqi and Iranian troops are currently deployed along the central front within Iraqi territory. They are fighting what Tehran has promised will be the "final battle" of the Gulf war. According to information gleaned by us in a series of meetings with Iranian political, military, and religious leaders, the "Islamic fighters'" tactical objective is to isolate Baghdad by blocking the roads that connect it with Basra in the south and As-Suleymaniyah in the north, while leaving to a second phase the Iraqi Shi'ite rebels' conquest of the city and establishment there of an "Islamic republic." This is the inalienable strategic objective of Imam Khomeyni's regime.

The "Islamic combatants" promise to unleash the offensive from three directions, in three occupied areas of Iraqi territory:

1 — On the northern front near Hajj 'Umran, where they occupy about 900 square km. The conquest began in October 1982 (operation "Moslem ibn Aqil"), continued in July 1983 (operation "Aurora 2") and again in October 1983 (operation "Aurora 4"). On 10 February, the Iranians advanced further, to the high

ground around the Darband-i Khan dam. Their objectives are threefold: to cut off the road between As-Suleymaniyah and Baghdad; to bombard the oil refinery at Kirkuk and the only working pipeline between there and Turkey; and to bombard the Darband-i Khan hydroelectric powerplant, thus cutting off the electricity supply to the entire region of Iraqi Kurdistan.

2 — On the central front, level with Mehran, where the Iranians occupy about 600 square km. The conquest began in October 1982 (operation "Moharram al-Haram") and continued in July 1983 (operation "Aurora 3"). On 16 February, the Iranians launched operation "Aurora 5," a massive offensive on Iraqi territory in the area between the cities of Mehran and Dehloran. Their objective is to cut off the vital road between Baghdad and Basra.

3 — On the southern front, level with Al-Husayniyah, where they occupy about 80 square km. The conquest took place in July 1982 (operation "Ramadan al-Mubarak"). The objective is to bombard the industrial and oil plants at Basra.

The Iranian strategy, based on the principle that "Iraq took the initiative of starting the war, so we are entitled to decide how to end it," is officially reflected in three conditions for an end to the conflict:

- 1 — The Iraqis' withdrawal from all occupied territories.
- 2 — Reparations for war damage.
- 3 — Punishment of the aggressor.

The problem that has caused the breakdown of all mediations is the third condition: Actually, its specific interpretation by the Iranians has changed according to developments in military operations, through the final and clear demand for the overthrow of Baghdad's Ba'thist regime and the establishment of a Khomeyni-style Islamic regime.

We asked Foreign Minister 'Ali Akhbar Velayati: If Saddam Husayn were to relinquish power, would you be willing to normalize your relations with the new Iraqi leadership?

This was his reply: "We will never negotiate directly or indirectly with the Iraqi Ba'thist regime, even if Saddam Husayn were to be replaced by another figure. Iraq's future will be determined by the Iraq people themselves and, since the majority of them are Muslims, Iraq will be an Islamic republic and nothing else."

The previous day, General Sayyad-Shirazi, commander in chief of the army, told us: "Our strategy is designed to liberate not only the occupied Iranian territories but also Jerusalem and all Islamic countries where people feel the need to vanquish tyranny. Ours is a war that we are waging for God, and He will grant us victory."

Receiving us in the Majlis (parliament) building, Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: "I ask God that we and the Iraqi people may soon be able to meet and pray in Karbala"

and An-Najaf (Shi'ite holy cities of Iraq — *LA REPUBBLICA* editor's note).

In a previous phase, the Iranians let it be known to the various mediators who for so long shuttled between Tehran and Baghdad that it would be enough to replace Saddam Husayn. So much so that, according to information gathered here in Tehran, three alternatives to the Saddam Husayn regime were put forward, both within the context of the ruling Ba'th Party and with figures of different political origins.

The first alternative was proposed by the United States and discussed initially by Secretary of State Shultz with Syrian President al-Asad in Damascus in May 1983, and subsequently by special envoy Donald Rumsfeld with Saddam Husayn himself in Baghdad last November. It envisaged the establishment of a collegial leadership comprising 'Izzat Ibrahim, deputy chairman of the Revolutionary Command; Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister; and Sa'adun Shaki'r, minister of the interior.

The second alternative was proposed by Jordan and envisaged a handing over of power to General Mahmud 'Uraym, commander of the eastern front from 1967 through 1968, now adviser to King Husayn and resident in Amman.

The third alternative was proposed by Saudi Arabia and envisaged entrusting power to General 'Abd al-Ghani ar-Rawi, deputy president in 1967 and currently resident in Riyadh. He would have been flanked by General Mahmud Sa'id Khattab, minister of communications in the 1963 Ba'thist government and now living in Baghdad.

All these compromise both because of Tehran's fundamental intransigence but also because of Saddam Husayn's refusal to surrender the reins. At least seven attempts have been made to kill him since the start of the war, the latest by brother Barzani at-Tikriti, secret service chief, in March 1983, who has now disappeared from the public scene.

So the final decision rests with the force of arms. On the tactical plane, the Iranians have preferred not to penetrate too deep into Iraqi territory, confining themselves to the occupation of the highlands and passes from which it is possible to isolate Baghdad and hold it in check, for two reasons: the opposition of the two major powers, the West, and the Arab countries including Syria to Iraq's occupation by the Iranians and the expansionism of the Khomeyniite revolution; Khomeyni's determination to secure the Iraqi people's support by posing as their "liberator" from Saddam Husayn's "godless and dictatorial" regime. Therefore, Iran's tactics are based on exerting pressure on Baghdad by means of a war of attrition and siege until the regime is overthrown by the Shi'ite Muslims at present "hosted" by Iran, so to make it appear like an Iraqi "internal affair."

There are over 350,000 Shi'ite Iraqis in Iran—200,000 of whom were expelled by Saddam Husayn at the start of the war in September 1980; 100,000 refugees from various countries; and 62,000 prisoners of war (58,000 of them Shi'ites). A further 70,000 Iraqi exiles have been transferred to Syria. The "Supreme

Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq" headed by Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Bakr al-Hakim, and the Ad-Da'wah (Islamic appeal) organization headed by Aziz Bakr al-Hakim have their headquarters in Tehran. In the training camps at least 50,000 Iraqis are ready to join the war on Saddam Husayn whenever the Iranian command so decides. One of them told us: "Iran is the country of all Muslims and of all the earth's underprivileged. We recognize Khomeyni as our leader. God is one, and Khomeyni is the leader."

For the time being, however, the Iranians prefer to act alone. According to army Commander in Chief Shirazi, their military tactics in the field "are based principally on the human wave offensive by land forces with logistical air support." It is well known that this involves the sacrifice of thousands of troops, mainly youngsters driven into the fortified enemy trenches. "These Islamic fighters cannot be compared to kamikazes, however," Shirazi argued, obviously irritated: "Their objective is to resist and survive until victory, but even if they are martyred theirs is still a victory."

Manpower is Iran's chief resource in this war, and blind faith in Khomeyni's watchwords is its winning weapons. Understandably, military tactics are based on land forces, composed as follows—the regular army (200,000 men); the pasdaran (revolutionary guards, 150,000 men); the basij ("mobilization," volunteers, totaling 100,000 men); and the ashayr (tribal militiamen from the border regions. As for weaponry, 90 percent of their light arms are produced in Iran, and even helicopters are assembled in Esfahan, with the help of Iraqi advisers.

Furthermore, many weapons have been taken from the Iraqis in their repeated withdrawals, including some 1,000 tanks abandoned intact at Defzul and Khorramshahr. Last, weapons come from allied countries (Libya and Syria), from European countries (Italy, Germany, and Spain) and from nonaligned countries (Brazil, North Korea, South Korea, Yugoslavia). The Iranians pay in dollars and pay promptly, so everyone is happy with the excellent deals concluded. Apart from the expenditure on armaments, the war costs Iran \$12.5 billion a year, according to by budget official Taqi Banki. One must add to this war damages, reckoned through September 1982 to total \$135 billion. Only on one condition, Banki stressed, would he agree not to demand reparation: "If an Islamic republic is established in Baghdad."

U.S. Reportedly Considering Replacing Saddam

GF240858 Tehran International Service in Arabic
0700 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Excerpt] With the exacerbating crisis of the regime ruling in Iraq, which began with the start of the Val-Fajr VI operation by the soldiers of Islam and the departure of a large number of citizens from Basra, Khanaqin, 'Ali al-Gharbi, and other Iraqi cities, a special committee at the U.S. State Department has been commissioned to study the latest situation of the regime ruling in Iraq.

Reports indicate that officials at the U.S. State Department have discussed, in secret session, the repercussions of the fall of the regime ruling in Iraq on U.S. interests in the region. They

charged this special committee with the task of drawing up a plan to replace Saddam with another person if need be. Reports indicate that Taha Yasin Ramadan is one of those whom the committee is expected to contact.

Spokesman on 'Propaganda' Over Al-Qurnah

LD240557 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0908 GMT
24 Feb 84

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] In reply to the pure propaganda of news imperialism concerning the special Khybar operations, the War Information Headquarters spokesman has announced:

Due to the impotence of the Iraqi forces in fighting against the fighters of Islam, news imperialism has entered the scene in full force and is trying desperately to strengthen the morale of the soldiers of the disintegrating regime of Iraq. Therefore, ever since the start of the victorious Khybar operations against the Ba'thist-Zionist regime of Baghdad, Western propaganda loudspeakers, especially the Zionist propaganda loudspeakers who have bitter memories of the historic victory of the Muslims in Khybar in the 7th year of Hegira [in the seventh year of the Islamic calendar Muhammad fought against and defeated a Jewish colony in Khybar near Medina], have clearly come to the support of Saddam, the supporter of Zionism. From the early hours of Friday, today, in a common and coordinated conspiracy, they all report that the Iraqi town of Al-Qurnah is under Iraqi control and that the Iranians have not occupied it.

The War Information Headquarters spokesman added: The main aim behind broadcasting such reports is to cast doubt on the presence of the fighters of Islam in the Al-Qurnah region as well as their complete stationing in that region; so that the truth of the reports presented by the sources of the Islamic Republic of Iran will be doubted by world public opinion.

In his interview with the IRNA correspondent, the War Information Headquarters spokesman added: Although so far Iran has not broadcast any report concerning control over Baghdad, news imperialism can report that Baghdad is also not under Iranian control and that the regime of Baghdad is still in full control of it. In this way, they can claim a kind of control over Iraq by the disintegrating government of the Ba'thists of Baghdad.

He added: Our fighters are completely stationed in the liberated areas in Al-Qurnah region. According to the War Information Headquarters spokesman, the liberating army of Islam still controls Al-'Amarah-Basra highway in a few important places. The best proof for the victories achieved during the Khybar operations is Baghdad's retaliation in its missile attacks against Borujerd and Khorramabad in Iran, which were carried out in the early hours of this morning. In their usual manner, after their military defeat and after fleeing from the battlefronts, the rulers of Baghdad engaged in launching missiles from places far from the battlefronts against our civilian centers.

Musavi Sees Concerted Efforts To Help Iraq

*LD231820 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT
23 Feb 84*

[Excerpts] At noon today, the prime minister met with members of the Revolution Guards Corps and education department staff.

The prime minister said: All the arrogant powers in the world are exerting efforts to break our nation. Our victory against them is not a regional one; rather, the victory of Islam will endanger the interests of America and Israel throughout the world.

In another part of his remarks, the prime minister said: With the general mobilization of our nation to end this war in victory, Reagan has begun fresh threats against the Islamic Republic. As for Britain, it has dispatched its warships to the Strait of Hormuz. This act clearly demonstrates the support of the global arrogance for Saddam. This support, as well as the efforts aimed at exerting pressure on the Islamic Republic, is stronger than ever. The global powers' all-round support for Saddam is indicative of the importance of this war to them, for the interests of America, Britain, France, and all the arrogant powers are greatly dependent on saving Saddam.

Commenting on a recent statement issued by the International Red Cross in connection with the status of Iraqi POW's in Iran, the prime minister said: The International Red Cross has sat in judgment on Iran—which is something unprecedented in the entire period of the war. It has declared that Iranian officials have prevented a meeting between the organization's representatives and 50,000 Iraqi POW's. We do not regard this act by the International Red Cross as a coincidence. It is noteworthy that, since the inception of the International Red Cross, it is unprecedented for that organization to have made a judgment so openly.

Nevertheless, in its recent statement, while trying to mislead and prevent the revelation of the arbitrary stands it has taken, the organization begins by including some meaningless words in connection with the methods adopted by the Iraqis against the Iranian POW's and then it declares that the Iranian authorities are resorting to brainwashing Iraqi POW's, that they are preventing a meeting between the representatives of the Red Cross and the POW's. These people call the return of the Iraqi POW's to the Koran and their genuine culture and the Iraqi POW's rejection of decadent Western values as brainwashing of the POW's by the Iranian authorities. To raise such a point at this juncture means the collaboration of all powers to save Saddam.

Foreign Ministry Memorandum to Red Cross

*LD232130 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT
22 Feb 84*

[Text] In view of recent hostile publicity alleging that the work of the International Red Cross Committee in the Islamic Republic of Iran has come to a standstill, the Foreign Ministry has submitted a memorandum to the International Red Cross representative in Tehran.

The memorandum states in part: The Islamic Republic of Iran expected international organizations, especially the Interna-

tional Red Cross which considers itself politically impartial, to perform their tasks with complete impartiality and on the basis of the articles of the Geneva 4-point convention with regard to the imposed war and its relevant issues. It was on the basis of such an assumption that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran issued at the outset a directive to all relevant government bodies of the Islamic Republic of Iran, expressing the need for cooperation with Red Cross representatives in order to facilitate their tasks. But as a result of numerous issues which arose during the Red Cross performance in Iran, to which we shall refer, the initial optimism of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the International Red Cross was weakened.

On the basis of Geneva's 4-point convention and in accordance with common practice, as that organization said in its statement issued in 1940 concerning bombed cities during World War II, the International Red Cross is obliged, immediately after an enemy's attack on towns and civilian quarters, to commission a delegation to the stricken areas to ascertain violations of the convention and common practice, damages inflicted and to report on them. From the start of the imposed war to date the Red Cross, unfortunately, despite an awareness that such attacks have so far resulted in 4,600 martyrs and more than 22,000 injured, has done the least possible in execution of its tasks. It is obliged to inform the world if an aggressor state repeats its violation of the Geneva Convention or if it pays no attention to the International Red Cross warnings. Unfortunately, during the 3 years since the start of this war such a step has not been taken, despite the categorical references made by the UN delegation in its report dated 20 June 1983 concerning Iraq's violation of the Geneva Convention in bombing the occupied Iranian cities. [Passage indistinct] On this issue, as well as the issue of Iraqi refugees who have sought refuge in Iran and the issue of more than 10,000 missing military personnel and civilians, unfortunately, the Red Cross has not taken a single step.

The Red Cross must perform its tasks for the registration of POW's in a manner avoiding disorder and chaos among the POW's. Unfortunately, so far the representatives of that organization have violated the two aforementioned points. Areas in which the International Red Cross has failed to execute its tasks are not limited to the four points just cited as examples. Concerning tours of the stricken towns and also the use of chemical bombs by Iraqi aggressors just in the last few months more than six Foreign Ministry memoranda have received no reply.

Nevertheless, and despite Red Cross failure to perform its tasks as stated above, the Islamic Republic of Iran, which has in the past provided all facilities to the International Red Cross for that organization's effective and positive measures, since the date that the work of the Red Cross representatives stopped in the Islamic Republic—a development that has come about on an unjustified basis and for baseless excuses—the Islamic Republic of Iran has invited, in six memoranda, that organization to perform its duties with regard to Iraqi POW's, but has received no reply.

This comes at a time when Iranian POW's in Iraq are living in most inhumane conditions, and yet the Red Cross has not been able to put an end to that situation in an effective manner.

In view of what has been stated and in view of the fact that the number of Iraqi POW's is several times more than that of Iranian POW's in Iraq, the latter's living conditions cannot be compared with those of the Iraqi POW's in Iran, and the Islamic Republic of Iran is shouldering this heavy burden beyond what is required by international conventions, merely because of its Islamic beliefs that dictate the provision of the POW's welfare.

Our natural expectation has been that the International Red Cross Committee would show more desire for implementation of its tasks. Unfortunately, the organization's behavior and especially the recent interviews and statements by officials of that committee, which are openly in favor of the Iraqi regime, have caused concern at international level to the effect that certain political considerations have influenced the committee, and such considerations have resulted in the disruption of the committee's obligations in accordance with the 1945 Convention.

The Islamic Republic of Iran in expressing its regret over the organization's unjustified performance invites once again, and merely on the basis of Islamic and humane considerations and with complete good will, the International Red Cross Committee to resume its activities in the Islamic Republic of Iran at the earliest opportunity.

Needless to say, the organization will enjoy cooperation from relevant organs within that organization's framework tasks.

Otherwise, the committee will merely be held responsible for the outcome.

SAIRI Urges Iraqis To Support Islamic Forces

*LD231221 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT
23 Feb 84*

[Communique No 2 of Supreme Assembly of Islamic Revolution of Iraq]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. O oppressed Iraqi nation: Revolutionary and freedom-seeking fervor has engulfed our Islamic homeland today. Everywhere the glint of hope and the desire for victory can be seen in the eyes of old and young, women and men. The slogan of all our people and nation, whether Arabs, Kurds, and Turkomen, Shi'ites or Sunnis, is independence, freedom, and Islamic government. All are unanimously awaiting the victory of the nation and Iraq's liberation from the talons of the 'Aflaqite Ba'th Party and the destruction of the antipopular defeated regime of Saddam.

Today, our nation is looking forward to a brilliant future with pride. What other glory is greater than selflessness along the path of God Almighty, and what other cause for pride is more glorious than solidarity, unity, and steadfastness with regard to the antipopular, traitorous, and treacherous Saddamist regime! Just as it has often been emphasized, Saddam is on the way out.

Saddam's business is over and no force is any longer able to protect this microbe of corruption. Saddam should now be relegated to the rubbish dump of history with one decisive and crushing move from you, O Muslim nation!

O fighting Muslim people of Iraq, your movement in the cities of Sulaymaniyah and Basra and your struggles in northeast and southern Iraq have again revived the memory of your historic struggles against British domination, under the leadership of your committed and responsible clergy, and prove that when a nation relies on God it can stand up to the most oppressive antihuman regimes.

According to reports reaching the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq at this very moment from several important cities such as Karbala', An-Najaf, Sulaymaniyah, Kirkuk, and Baghdad, our nation last night prayed in unison for the victory of Islam's combatants and for the destruction of Saddam and for the liberation of our oppressed country.

Once again we bring glad tidings to you, O noble oppressed people, that the true dawn is about to break and the Iraqi nation, God willing, will win freedom, happiness, and bliss in this world and in the hereafter, on condition that you do not stint in expending your lives and property along the path of God, that you close ranks even tighter.

On this occasion, we would like to draw the attention of our compatriot brothers and sisters to the fact that any blow delivered at Saddam and other agents of the United States and Israel in Iraq constitutes service to Islam and to the Muslims and to the world's meek. Therefore, do not fear threats or intimidations! Struggle firmly and actively along the path of God and know that struggle on any scale, when it is along the path of God, is effective.

And again we remind those who have not yet joined the ranks of the nation and are still following Saddam that they should give up this mockery and think of their future and their families, because if today you do not think of making reparation for your past shortcomings and do not join the ranks of the people and do not cooperate with the people and do not join the powerful camp of Islam, tomorrow will be too late.

In conclusion, we call on the populations of the border towns toward which the Islamic forces are moving, such as Basra and Al-'Amarah, to prepare themselves to join the forces of Islam, to support Islam's forces so that an end can be put as soon as possible to the shameful life of Saddam's subservient regime!

And there is no victory except through God, the dear, the wise! [quotation from Koran]

[Signed] Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq